

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the followings paragraphs as indicated below:

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

When used in a closed fashion as shown in Fig. 3, measuring device 10 can be used like a ruler for spacing wall or other studs on centers during construction phases. As shown in ~~Fig. 3~~ Figs. 3 and 4, measuring device 10 has ~~a base~~ base 11 with indicia 37 printed or molded thereon in the form of a conventional ruler. Base 11 in the preferred embodiment is exactly 15 and 31/32 inches in length for marking the position of building studs set on 16 inch centers. The 1/32 inch difference being allowed for a pencil mark on the wood or building material used.

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Preferred guide 50 is shown in Fig. 10 and includes top longitudinal member 51 and bottom longitudinal member 52 each having end caps 53. Longitudinal members 51 and 52 are preferably formed from tubular aluminum having a square cross-section. End caps 53 are preferably formed from plastic.

Threaded members 55 act as a means to adjustably connect longitudinal members 51 and 52. Threaded members 55 have heads 57 as seen in Figs. 12 and 13 and pass through over sized (larger than the diameter of the threaded member) apertures in longitudinal members 51 and 52 at the ends thereof and are tightened in place by knurled nuts 56 as shown in Figs. 10, 11 and 12. Heads 57 are slotted for reception of a screw driver or other tool. As also seen in Figs. 10 and 12, resilient members 58, each of which consists of a coil spring, are positioned over threaded members 55 between and in contact with longitudinal members 51 and 52 and provide resiliency thereto.

3. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The method of using guide 50 is seen in more detail in Figs. 14 and 15. Shown in ~~Fig. 14~~ Fig. 15, wooden piece or blank 60 consists of a conventional wooden "2x10" which is used to form a standard stair stringer 70 as shown in Fig. 16. In use, measuring device 80 is opened to a preset angle and guide 50 as shown in Fig. 13 is releasably affixed thereto. Next, measuring device 80 is placed against wooden blank 60 with guide 50 contiguous along edge 61. With longitudinal member 52 squarely against edge 61 as shown in Fig. 15 measuring device 80 is used as a pattern for marking along the outside of level 83 and base 84 as shown in Fig. 14 creating a "v" shaped pattern 65. V-shaped pattern 65 is repeated along wooden blank 60 by moving the combination of measuring device 80 and guide 50.

These steps are repeated as necessary to form the proper number of patterns 65 therein. Once v-shaped patterns 65 are marked, saw 77 or another tool can be used to remove patterns 65 to form stair tread support 66 and riser support 67 as shown by stair stringer 70 in Fig. 16.